

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 1 as follows:

distillation column having between about 20 and about 50 theoretical stages and a condenser or plurality of condensers. In the separation zone **130**, the solvent rich stream is recovered via conduit **140**. The purpose of the separation zone **130** is to perform a separation wherein at least a ~~portion~~ portion of the solvent is recovered and excess water is removed. In general, for the purposes of optimized energy recovery, there should be minimal pressure reduction between the contents of conduit **125** and conduit **135** and **145** since this represents a loss of potentially recoverable energy. Therefore, the separation zone **130** should operate at temperature and pressure conditions at or near that of the gaseous mixture from conduit **125**. At least a portion or all of the offgas stream **135** is sent to a heat recovery zone via conduit **145**, and the rest of the offgas stream **137** can be ~~utilized~~ utilized elsewhere within the process for producing the aromatic carboxylic acid.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 22 as follows:

The recovering of the thermal energy from the offgas stream **145** in a heat recovery zone **150** can be accomplished by any means known in the art. However, generally a power cycle is used. Power cycles are well known in the art. A power cycle is a cycle that takes heat and uses it to do work on the surroundings. There are numerous power cycles that are well known in the art. Examples of power cycles

include, but are not limited to, an organic rankine cycle(ORC), a kalina cycle, or a power cycle as described in WO02/063141 ~~herein incorporated by reference.~~